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Stephens, Charles

4/15/93

Dear Wayne,

Wish I had more time for your 4/9. First a generality; not one of the experts you cite made a distinction between bullets of different design and intent. As I told you, the fatal bullet was a Remington Kore-Lokt. Check at your friendly gun shop and you will find that it is designed as I told you it is, to become the greatest "mushroom" of them all.

You said everyone agrees with something with which I do not agree: that the bullet left King's jaw and re-entered him in the neck. I believe the bullet exploded, pretty much as it was designed to do, and that metal and bone emerged. As of the time of the assassination there was no proof that the so-called Ray rifle had ever been fired. I believe it never had been. It therefore certainly would have yielded marks of distinction. Many would not have existed after that. The FBI did not test-fire that rifle, did not even test to see if it had been fired since last cleaned, because it knew the rifle was not used in the crime. It did test-fire the .243 he returned even though it could not be fired without the removal of encrusted cosmoline and thus it has never been fired.

Whatever all those people say was removed from King's body, the fragment I examined in Bubba Blackwell's office was far from an intact or relatively-intact bullet. It was largely the butt end. ...Lingle is correct at least in stating that it was a good specimen for testing with a comparison bullet fired for testing. Our ballistics expert said that after examining it.

Re: King electronic surveillance there: could Smith have seen Army typists rather than the FBI? The FBI required FBIHQ permission to wiretap him and I know of none not intended to develop information that could embarrass him only. Personal stuff.

Redditt: Bull! There was no chance of doing anything to protect King from the fire house. Redditt and Richman reported the names of all who saw him. They were there for no other purpose.

There was no end to the portion of bullet removed from under King's shoulder. Most of that ~~apex~~ part was gone. It was largely the butt end, with a portion of the thin jacket as I now recall all on one side, if there can be said to have been a side, as I think there then was with so much missing.

The only legitimate disagreements over what happens to bullets on impact. normally, varies from bullet type to bullet type. Between hardended and ^{soft} ammo, etc. The bullet used is ^{designed} to not remain intact on impact.

When Redditt showed up at the airport when King's plane landed the blacks raised so much hell he had to be withdrawn. And they had some top brass there for "security" and they were complained about and removed that evening. Thanks and excuse haste,

Harry